

trobe was present at ward rounds in the Children's Hospital the following day and spoke at the clinical luncheon.

The new officers of the Winnipeg Medical Society for 1948-49 are: *President*—Dr. R. A. MacPherson; *Vice-President*—Dr. T. E. Holland; *Secretary*—Dr. K. R. Trueman; *Treasurer*—Dr. S. A. Boyd; *Trustee*—Dr. K. V. Borthwick-Leslie.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

Medical Services, Canadian Armed Forces

The Medical Directors of the Canadian Armed Forces Medical Services wish to thank the Editorial Board of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* for their courtesy in making this space available for the printing of items of interest to the medical profession. It is considered that by such means it will be possible also to inform all medical doctors of the professional activities of the Services and also will establish a ready contact between civil and service medicine.

In keeping with the ever-growing conception that any efficient Defence Service must perforce be composed of all necessary components working together smoothly with perfect team play, the Inter-Service Medical Committee was organized over two years ago. This committee is formed by Directors of the respective Medical Services, Navy, Army and Air Force. The chairmanship is taken in rotation by one of the Medical Directors for a period of one year, and the secretary is appointed by the chairman, from his own Service. The committee meets weekly and discusses all matters that may have Inter-Service portent. Its function is to minimize and if possible eradicate all duplication, unhealthy competition, and encourage to the fullest, co-operation and co-ordination of the Medical Services of the Armed Forces. It would be quite wrong to intimate that knotty problems do not at times arise but when they do they are discussed frankly and without prejudice and it is considered that this Committee makes a definite contribution to the functioning of the Medical Services of the Armed Forces.

An announcement of unusual interest has been made from National Defence Headquarters to the effect that veteran medical students due to graduate in 1949 are eligible for commissioning in the medical branch of one of the Armed Forces. If selected for such commission, the student will draw pay and allowances of his rank, be supplied with textbooks and such instruments as he may require during his final year, and have his final year's university fees paid by the Department. Those eligible and interested should consult the Dean of their faculty, or make direct enquiry from the Medical Directorate of the service of their choice at National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa.

Brigadier W. L. Coke, Surgeon Captain A. McCallum and Group Captain A. A. G. Corbet will be official delegates from National Defence Headquarters to the annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association. In addition there will be official medical representation from the various commands and establishments.

Group Captain J. A. Mahoney of Air Force Headquarters, attended the Fourth International Congress on Tropical Medicine and Malaria in Washington, representing the Medical Services of the Departments of National Defence and National Health and Welfare.

The Medical Director General, Royal Canadian Navy, Surgeon Captain A. McCallum has been named as the official delegate of the Medical Services, Canadian Armed Forces, to attend the following International Medical Meetings: The International Committee on Military Medicine and Pharmacy, Stockholm, Sweden, August 18 to 20, 1948; The 17th International Red Cross Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, August 20 to 30, 1948 and the Hungarian Medical Celebrating Week, Budapest, Hungary, September 4 to 12, 1948. In addition Surgeon Captain McCallum will attend the British Commonwealth Official Medical Historians Liaison Committee Conference, Oxford, England, August 3 to 7, 1948.

The 19th Annual Meeting of the Aero Medical Association was held in Toronto, June 16, 17 and 18. The R.C.A.F. participated through extending the use of the facilities of their Institute of Aviation Medicine and by a scientific exhibit relating to the work of the Institute.

The Convention of the Canadian Public Health Association recently held in Vancouver was attended by representatives of the Medical Services, Canadian Armed Forces. The official delegates were Lieut.-Col. E. J. Young, R.C.A.M.C., the Inter-Service representative on the Technical Advisory Committee on Public Health Laboratory Services, and W./C. G. D. Caldbick, R.C.A.F., who delivered a paper on Diphtheria, and Surgeon Lieut. Comdr. J. W. Rogers of H.M.C.S. *Naden*, Esquimalt.

Dr. W. R. Feasby, Medical Historian, has been authorized to attend the British Commonwealth Official Medical Historians Liaison Committee Conference, Oxford, England, August 3 to 7, 1948.

CORRESPONDENCE

Prepaid Medical Services in Alberta

To the Editor:

A proposed agreement to be entered into between Alberta doctors and Medical Services (Alberta) Incorporated has been circulated for study. The object is a prepaid medical service for the Alberta public. Most of the proposals are good from the point of view of public and doctors alike. There is one section, however, namely Section X, which is alarming. The Board of Directors propose to reserve the right to adopt such rules as it may deem necessary, and we suppose will be able to alter or add to them when they consider this expedient. Whilst we realize that some such power is essential, we feel that there should be a limit and the limit should be carefully defined. It is to just such unlimited powers assumed by the Minister of Health in London that the British doctors have been objecting.

In part two of the proposed agreement, it is stated that the decision of the Board of Directors as to the correct interpretation of the terms and conditions shall be final and binding on the professional members. Again there is a parallel in the British National Health Act. British doctors are insisting on their right of appeal to the courts. Alberta doctors should insist on similar liberty of action.

Finally the agreement defines very clearly the professional members and the participating members, but it does not define the Medical Services (Alberta) Incorporated which body could, it seems, in time change radically from its present form without reference to the other parties to the contract.

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